

D-738

Brookview-Eldorado Survey District

Nineteenth and twentieth centuries

Public and private

The early developmental history of the Brookview and Eldorado communities is somewhat shrouded by the sparseness of early Dorchester County court records, although an act passed in Maryland's provincial assembly in 1671 authorized a ferry crossing on the North West Fork of the Nanticoke River at the same time that one was issued for a crossing of the Choptank at the site of the former town of Dover in Talbot County. The crossing of the Nanticoke on the Northwest Fork was known as Upper Black Walnut Landing; a survey of a narrow strip of land that edged the western side of the waterway within the Nanticoke Indian lands. Another early document related to the ferry crossing is a 1755 memorandum confirming a 99-year lease written back in 1717 between Samuel Croucher [Crotcher] and Nanticoke leaders Panquash and Amotokim for the yearly rent of Upper Black Walnut landing; the fee for which was settled at six bushels of Indian corn yearly. Samuel Crotcher and his wife Mary occupied the Upper Black Walnut landing tract and operated the ferry across the North West Fork of the Nanticoke. Little else is known about what defined Crotcher's Ferry and the immediate landings on each side of the creek. In 1769-70, following Mary Crotcher's death, her daughter, Danair Sullivane, and other deponents, testified as to the bounds of Upper Black Walnut Landing, lying adjacent to the Nanticoke Indian grounds. At the time the tract was owned by Henry Hooper, and its boundaries were apparently uncertain. By the end of the century a tavern operated on the east side of the creek, which is designated on Dennis Griffith's *Map of Maryland*, published in 1795.

Crotcher's Ferry developed slowly into a rural village community that spread across both banks of the North West Fork during the period between 1770 and 1850. Surely the prolific commercial traffic and activities associated with the nearby Rehoboth plantation, known after c. 1790 as Liberty Hall, was directly related to its development. Originally acreage patented during the seventeenth century by Captain John Lee, part of the plantation lands were acquired by father and son, Edward and John Smoot in 1770. John Smoot resided on the creek plantation and financed construction of the prominently sited two-and-a-half story brick house on an elevated bank site north of the ferry crossing. Captain John Smoot was an ambitious planter and merchant who descended from a wealthy gentry family of Charles County, Maryland. He established mercantile outlets in three locations; two on the North West Fork, one in Federalsburg and the other at Crotcher's Ferry. A third store in owned in partnership with Alexander Douglas at Vienna. "Smoot's Wharf," cited in associate land records as part of Rehoboth, was situated at the south end of the Liberty Hall plantation. In 1804, John Smoot, who inherited part of the North West Fork Hundred acreage, conveyed 2 acres of the family land to William Drura, who operated and probably improved the Smoot mill operation on the branch that empties into the creek. Thomas Smoot, another heir, assumed the operation of the store in the village during the second quarter of the nineteenth century. A large part of the Rehoboth tract, including Liberty Hall, was acquired by Francis Turpin in 1815.

With the key components of an agrarian village with a ferry crossing on the North West Fork—a saw and/or grist mill, tavern, and plantation wharfs along the creek

front, all in the midst of a productive agricultural region—all of which contributed to the focused growth of the village on each side of the creek during the second, third, and fourth quarters of the nineteenth century. When a summary description of the community was printed in *The Maryland Directory* in 1878, Crotcher's Ferry was described by the following:

*[It] Is situated on the northwest fork of the Nanticoke River, 7 miles from East New Market on the D. & Del. R. R. and 17 miles east of Cambridge. Climate moderate; healthy and generally good. Business is good and consists of that done with vessels and fishing. Several masters of vessels live in the village. There are also three saw mills and a basket factory. Land is a light soil, which dark loam, in some sections; two-thirds cleared, balance set in pine and oaks; sells at from \$10 to \$100 per acre, according to location; yields 15 to 80 bushels wheat, 30 oats, 75-100 potatoes, 30 to 40 corn. Tobacco not grown extensively, but 600 to 700 lbs. can be raised to the acre. J. L. Trice, F. P. Corkran, and Miss A. Hurlock, teachers, Population 350. Geo. E. C. Bell, Postmaster.*

By the last decades of the nineteenth century, Crotcher's Ferry leveled off in population growth and commerce; the community maintained approximately 350 residents through the end of the century. During the late nineteenth century, community leaders on each side of the North West Fork decided to abandon the century old Crotcher's Ferry name. The west side of the community changed its name to Brookview, while the east side opted for Eldorado (pronounced El-dor-ray-doe), the name of a nearby farm owned during the late nineteenth century by Mr. and Mrs. Willis K. Brinsfield, Sr. One of the key buildings to be erected on the east side of the creek was the Eldorado M. P. Church, which was assembled in 1898. During the first quarter of the twentieth century, both communities settled into a more static state of growth and commerce, even though Dorchester County overall was slowly increasing in population between 1900 and 1930. In 1940 the population in Eldorado stood at 221, while the residents in Brookview

numbered 110. The first bridge erected over the North West Fork, commonly called the Marshyhope Creek, occurred in 1903 and a replacement span in poured concrete was erected in 1931. One of the most significant building projects on the east side of the creek was the construction of the Eldorado Elementary School around 1925. The facility was used by the county's Board of Education until the mid 1970s. Due to a decline in membership during the late twentieth century, the Eldorado Methodist Church was forced to discontinue regular worship service as residents have opted to attend church in other locations. The early twenty-first century has witnessed modest economic growth the villages themselves, whereas the immediate districts surrounding the villages have experienced new construction on area farms and within small subdivisions.



## 7. Description

Inventory No. D-738

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The villages of Eldorado and Brookview are located on the northeast and northwest sides of the Marshyhope Creek, formerly known as the Northwest Fork of the Nanticoke River. The Eldorado side of the community is clustered around MD 313 (Eldorado-Federalburg Road) and its intersections with Puckum Road to the north and Sharptown Road to the south. Brookview, on the west side of the creek is clustered around the intersection of MD Route 14 and Indiantown Road. Historically the villages were known collectively as Crotcher's Ferry, a community that surfaced slowly during the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries around the crossing of the creek. The buildings that define Brookview and Eldorado date from the mid to late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Brookview-Eldorado survey district, consisting of the two adjacent villages on the Marshyhope Creek are considered as one due their integral development as a single community—Crotcher's Ferry—that slowly emerged over the course of the seventeenth, eighteenth, nineteenth centuries. The two villages gained separate identities as Brookview and Eldorado. Located in the central section of the Fork Election District, the two communities are reached by MD Route 14, which crosses the Marshyhope on the Brookview Bridge (D-584) and extends westward to East New Market. MD Route 313 splits from MD Route 14 on the Eldorado (northeast) side and heads in a northerly direction to Federalburg in Caroline County and southeasterly to Sharptown in Wicomico County. Lateral roads that intersect these major highways include Indiantown Road on the Brookview side and Puckum Road on the Eldorado side.

The building stock of the Brookview-Eldorado survey district consists of approximately 42 contributing structures erected between 1825 and 1950, and the largest percentage of these dates between 1875 and 1930 when the community experienced its most prosperous period. One of the dominant historic structures in the immediate vicinity is the plantation house known as Rehoboth (D-6), which encompassed around 1300 acres during the fourth quarter of the eighteenth century when the house was erected for Captain John Smooth around 1785-90. The plantation and commercial operations developed by John Smooth formed the basis of a distinct village, particularly on the east (Eldorado) side.

The village housing stock follows basic vernacular houses forms for the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Aside from the Rehoboth plantation house, the oldest dwelling in the village itself is located at 5802 Puckum Road. Historically associated with William L. Drura, who owned the old Smoot saw mill operation during the second quarter of the nineteenth century, The two-story, three-bay frame house follows a side hall/parlor plan and has flush gable end and boxed cornices typical of dwellings erected around 1840-60. Attached west side is a shorter hyphen that



# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-738

Name Brookview-Eldorado Survey District  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 7 Page 1

---

joins a reworked kitchen wing to the main block. The house has been reworked with T-111 exterior siding. Another distinctive dwelling dating from the late nineteenth century is the two-story ell-shaped residence that stands north of the old Eldorado M. P. Church. The c. 1880 frame structure is defined by a projecting two-story pavilion with three-sided bay window and a decorative Victorian porch that shelters the entrance. The Eldorado M. P. Church is the most accomplished buildings remaining in the village (See D-328). The Victorian frame church is dominated by a bell tower and spire that rises from the southwest corner. The raised concrete block foundation provides the building with an exaggerated sense of prominence against the level fields and landscape around the village. A line of modest two-story, two bay frame houses line Puckum Road to the north of the main crossroads. These houses are supported by low foundations and are covered by a mixture of siding materials including plain weatherboards, asbestos shingles, and vinyl siding. The other concentration of houses that define the Eldorado side of the community line MD Route 14 and include a variety of late nineteenth and early twentieth century two-story and single-story house forms, all of frame construction. The most distinctive early twentieth century structure on the east side of the river is the Eldorado Elementary School, a single-story stretcher bond brick building covered by a gable on hip roof and lighted by banks of nine-over-nine sash windows. Accenting the front of the building is a small neoclassical portico.

The Brookview side of the survey district is less populated with surviving buildings; there are approximately ten to twelve contributing resources to the community that date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Clearly the most dominant historic structure is the Brookview Bridge (D-584) that spans the Marshyhope Creek (formerly Northwest Fork) and is prominently visible from the old ferry crossing location. Built in 1931, the concrete bridge rests on large, poured concrete pylons and concrete girders, 35 feet in length, span the distance between the pylons. The bridge keeper's house is a squarish concrete structure supported on concrete logs and topped by a eight-side pyramidal roof of low pitch. The streamlined architectural finished of the tender's house, finished in concrete, have modernistic references that allude to the popular neoclassical and Art Deco styles popular during the 1930s.

The housing stock on the Brookview side of the survey district repeats the two-story three-bay or asymmetrical tee- or ell-shaped plans common during late nineteenth century as well as a few Craftsman-style bungalows of the early twentieth century. All are of frame construction and are supported on either brick or concrete block foundations.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. D-738

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register☐ Maryland Register☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### SUMMARY SIGNIFICANCE

The Brookview-Eldorado survey district combines the resources of these separate villages that flank the northeast and southwest sides of the Marshyhope Creek in the center of the Fork Election District. Developing during the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and known as Crotcher's Ferry, the creek edge communities consists of several dozen structures primarily dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. While significant in the overall historic context of northeastern Dorchester County, the district of buildings are not collectively eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. One of the most distinctive structures is the Eldorado M. P. Church (D-328), erected in 1898 along MD Route 14. Another individually important building to the district is the Eldorado Elementary School (D-756) an early twentieth century single-story brick structure surviving with its original Colonial Revival front portico and multi-pane sash windows.

### HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The early developmental history of the Brookview and Eldorado communities is somewhat shrouded by the sparseness of early Dorchester County court records, although an act passed in Maryland's provincial council in 1671 authorized a ferry crossing on the northwest fork of the Nanticoke River at the same time that one was issued for a crossing of the Choptank at the site of the former town of Dover in Talbot County.<sup>1</sup> The crossing of the Nanticoke on the northwest fork was known as Upper Black Walnut Landing; a survey of narrow land edged the waterway within the territory of the Nanticoke Indian lands. Another early document related to the ferry crossing is a 1755 memorandum documenting a 99-year lease that had been written back in 1717 between Samuel Croucher [Crotcher] and Nantiocke natives Panquash and Amotokim for the yearly rent of Upper Black Walnut landing; the fee for which was settled at six bushels of Indian corn yearly.<sup>2</sup> Samuel Crotcher and his wife Mary

<sup>1</sup> Elias Jones, *New Revised History of Dorchester County, Maryland*. Cambridge, MD: Tidewater Publishers, 1966 reprint of 1902 edition, p. 98, also William Hand Browne, ed. *Proceedings and Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland, April 1666-June 1676*, Baltimore, MD: Maryland Historical Society, 1884, p. 318.

<sup>2</sup> Dorchester County Land Record, Old 15/295, 29 September 1755.



# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-738

Name Brookview-Eldorado Survey District  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 1

---

occupied the Upper Black Walnut landing tract and operated the ferry across the northwest fork of the Nanticoke. Little else is known about what was defined Crotcher's Ferry and the immediate landings on each side of the creek. In 1769-70, following Mary Crotcher's death her daughter, Danair Sullivane, and other deponents, testified as to the bounds of Upper Black Walnut Landing, lying adjacent to the Nanticoke Indian lands. At the time the tract was owned by Henry Hooper, and its boundaries were apparently uncertain.<sup>3</sup> By the end of the century a tavern operated on the east side of bank, which is designated on Dennis Griffith's Map of Maryland, published in 1795.<sup>4</sup>

Crotcher's Ferry developed slowly into a rural village community spread across both banks of the northwest fork of the Nanticoke during the period between 1770 and 1850. Surely the prolific commercial traffic and activities associated with the nearby Rehoboth plantation known as Liberty Hall and built by Captain John Smoot, and later Francis Turpin, contributed to the economic vitality of the immediate vicinity. Captain John Smoot was an ambitious planter and merchant who established stores in two locations on the North West Fork and one on the Nanticoke itself. He had a store in Federalsburg and one at Crotcher's Ferry and a third store in shared partnership with Alexander Douglas at Vienna. "Smoot's Wharf," cited in associated land records as a boundary reference, was situated at the south end of the Liberty Hall plantation. In 1804, John Smoot, who inherited part of the Rehoboth plantation, conveyed 2 acres of the family lands to William Drura, who operated the old Smoot saw mill on the branch that empties into the creek.<sup>5</sup> Thomas Smoot, another heir, assumed the operation of the store in the village during the second quarter of the nineteenth century.<sup>6</sup> A large part of Rehoboth plantation, consisting of 395 1/4 acres with the eighteenth-century brick dwelling, was acquired by Francis Turpin in 1815.<sup>7</sup>

With the substantial components of an agrarian village with a ferry crossing of the North West Fork—a saw and/or grist mill, tavern and plantation wharfs along the creek front, all in the midst of a productive agricultural region—contributed to the focused growth of the village on each side of the creek during the second and third quarters of the nineteenth century. When a summary description of the community was written for *The Maryland Directory* in 1878, Crotcher's Ferry was described by the following:

---

<sup>3</sup> Dorchester County Land Record, Old 24/9, 14 March 1769 – 9 April 1770, Commission to Daniel Sullivane, James Sullivane, John Wheeler and James Muir to "perpetuate the bounds of Henry Hooper's land called Upper Black Walnut Landing..." Dorchester County Courthouse.

<sup>4</sup> Dennis Griffith, Map of Maryland, 1794 [1795], Maryland State Archives, as published in Papenfuss & Coale, *The Maryland State Archives Atlas of Maryland Maps, 1608-1908*, p. 74.

<sup>5</sup> Dorchester County Land Record, HD 21/424, 8 November 1804, Dorchester County Courthouse.

<sup>6</sup> Dorchester County Land Record, ER 17/412, 27 April 1839, Dorchester County Courthouse.

<sup>7</sup> Dorchester County Land Record, ER 4/24, 10 November 1815, Dorchester County Courthouse.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-738

Name Brookview-Eldorado Survey District  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

---

*[It] Is situated on the northwest fork of the Nanticoke River, 7 miles from East New Market on the D. & Del. R. R. and 17 miles east of Cambridge. Climate moderate; healthy and generally good. Business is good and consists of that done with vessels and fishing. Several masters of vessels live in the village. There are also three saw mills and a basket factory. Land is a light soil, with dark loam, in some sections; two-thirds cleared, balance set in pine and oaks; sells at from \$10 to \$100 per acre, according to location; yields 15 to 80 bushels wheat, 30 oats, 75-100 potatoes, 30 to 40 corn. Tobacco not grown extensively, but 600 to 700 lbs. can raised to the acre. J. L. Trice. F. P. Corkran; and Miss A. Hurlock, teachers. Population, 350. Geo. E. C. Bell, Postmaster.*

By the last decades of the nineteenth century, Crotcher's Ferry leveled off in population growth, maintaining approximately 350 residents through the end of the century. During the late nineteenth century, community leaders on each side of the North West Fork decided to abandon the century's old Crotcher's Ferry name. The west side of the community changed its name to Brookview, while the east side opted for Eldorado (pronounced El-dor-ay-doe), the name of a nearby farm owned during the late nineteenth century by Mr. and Mrs. Willis K. Brinsfield, Sr.<sup>8</sup> One of the key buildings to be erected in Eldorado at that time was the Eldorado M. P. Church, which was assembled in 1898. During the first quarter of the twentieth century both communities settled into a static state even though the population in Dorchester County overall was slowly increasing between 1900 and 1930. In 1940 the population in Eldorado stood at 221, while the residents in Brookview numbered 110,<sup>9</sup> which documents a modest decline in residents since the 1880s. One of the most significant building projects during the early twentieth century was the construction of the Eldorado Elementary School around 1925, which was used by the county's Board of Education until the mid 1970s.

---

<sup>8</sup> North Dorchester Heritage Festival booklet, 6.1955, p. 13.

<sup>9</sup> Gazetteer of Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland: Maryland State Planning Commission and Department of Geology, Mines and Water Resources, October 1941.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-738

Name Brookview-Eldorado Survey District  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 3

---

Brookview-Eldorado Survey District

Map 35, Parcel 122  
Chain-of-title for  
5802 Puckum Road (East side of creek)

720/45

Donald Brannock Hackett

to

3.27.2006

Lon C. Spoonire, Jr. and Carol Spoonire

\$60,000 Lot No. 6

638/69

Donald Brannock Hackett  
Alice Joan Hackett, Personal Representatives of Louise B. Hackett

to

3.11.2005

Donald Brannock Hackett

Whereas decedent died on or about 15 August 2003; Luke K. Hackett  
died 7.11.1985; property descended to Louise B. Hackett

PLC 179/334

Luke K. Hackett and Edna C. Hackett

to

4.6.1973

Luke K. Hackett III and Louise B. Hackett

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-738

Name Brookview-Eldorado Survey District  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 4

---

PLC 125/374

Raymond B. Lord

to

10.26.1961

Luke K. Hackett and Edna C. Hackett

RSM 70/6

Frances May Lord

to

8.9.1949

Raymond B. Lord

The said lot being designated Lot No. 6 on the plat or map of lots of Eldorado sold at auction by William L. Dean and Herman R. Stevens, and which is filed among the Plat Records of said County,

JFD 21/584

William L. Dean and others (Nancy Dean, Edna L. Stevens, Admin. of the estate of Herman R. Stevens, and Zoro H. Brinsfield, lien creditor

to

3.15.1928

Frances May Lord

Whereas said Herman R. Stevens departed this life 12.10.1927

Lots No. 6 and 7

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-738

Name Brookview-Eldorado Survey District

### Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 5

---

JFD 17/322

Dean Knickerbocker and Amy E. Knickerbocker

to

11.14.1925

William L. Dean and Herman R. Stevens

JFD 13/490

Zoro H. Brinsfield, widower

to

8.3.1923

Dean Knickerbocker, formerly of Cleveland, Ohio

\$12,000.00, three parcels

Lot No. 1, place where an old cannon formerly stood

Lot No. 2 and 3 together with the new school house, mentions gun or cannon in boundary description, JFD 15/559, 12.5.1923, Joseph W. Bassett and Amanda A. Bassett to Dean Knickerbocker

1903

Bridge replaced ferry, west side of creek renamed around the turn of the twentieth Brookview and the east side around 1890 to Eldorado

1877

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas-Crotcher's Ferry

Approximately two dozen houses on both sides of creek

Stores on each side of creek

M. P. Church on west side

School on west side

Post office on west side

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-738

Name Brookview-Eldorado Survey District  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 6

---

FJH 9/274-276

James Wallace, Trustee

to

2.5.1874

William H. Brinsfield

\$760.00 37 ½ acres, 32 square perches

Decree of Circuit Court, 7.22.1870, John H. D. Jones and Elizabeth Jones were complainants and Amelia Long and William M.(?) Roach Executor of William Long, dec'd, and others were defendants  
Number 607 in Chancery Record

...on the county road leading from Cannon's Ferry to Crotcher's Ferry...  
being the same land conveyed in the following transfers...

1. to William L. Drura by Francis B. C. Turpin and Mary Adaline Turpin, 27 April 1839, ER 17/412-414
2. all that house and lot situated near Crotcher's Ferry and more particularly described in a deed of Jacob C. Wilson of Talbot County to William L. Drura, 7 June 1841, ER 18/417
3. all that wharf property "Smoot's Wharf" and the cripple land adjoining said wharf conveyed by James E. Douglas, Sheriff to William L. Drura, 26 April 1854, FJH 2/567
4. 65 acres of land conveyed by Thomas H. Smoot and wife to William L. Drura, 13 May 1855, FJH 3/260-261  
All that store house and lot, ¼ acre which formerly belonged to Thomas Hackett and William L. Drura and which was conveyed to them by Jacob Wilson, also all the mill seat and premises which formerly belonged to Thomas Hackett and William L. Drura



# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-738

Name Brookview-Eldorado Survey District  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 7

---

5. last named properties conveyed by James A. Stewart, trustee to William L. Drura, 9 June 1855, FJH 3/261-262

FJH 3/261

James A. Stewart, Trustee

to

6.9.1855

William L. Drura

....in a case of William L. Drura against William J. Hackett and others, passed this 26 July 1854...

\$2,002.00 mill seat...Saw mill and lot....1/4 acre which was conveyed to Drura & Hackett by Jacob Wilson

17 acres...."Rehoboth"

81 acres....conveyed to Thomas Hackett by a certain .....Bruce and which formerly belonged to a certain Henry Smoot and being about a mile from Crotcher's Ferry

FJH 3/260

Thomas H. Smoot

to

William L. Drura

5.13.1855

\$400.00..."Rehoboth"...65 3/4 acres...part of the land that was assigned and allotted to John Smoot by Commissioners appointed to divide the real estate of Henry Smoot

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of**  
**Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. D-738

Name Brookview-Eldorado Survey District  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 8

---

FJH 2/567

James E. Douglas, Sheriff

to

4.26.1854

William L. Drura

\$100.00 writ of fieri facias out of Dorchester County court  
April 1843, John N. Walker, Administrator of estate of John  
W. Kurle, dec'd,

"Crotcher's Ferry" known as Smoot's wharf and cripple lands

ER 18/417

Jacob C. Wilson

to

6.7.1841

William L. Drura

\$300.00 "Rehoboth" 2 acres...being the house and lot  
Francis Turpin, dec'd, purchased of a certain Elizabeth  
Caulk in August 1826

ER 17/412

Francis B. C. Turpin and Mary Adeline Turpin

to

4.27.1839

William L. Drura

\$377.00 "Rehoboth" 37 ½ acres and 32 sq. perches

....standing on the west side of the county road leading aforesaid  
and on the north side of the path leading from Thomas  
Smoot's store house to Francis B. C. Turpin's dwelling house  
and near Thomas Smoot's store house....

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-738

Name Brookview-Eldorado Survey District  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 9

---

HD 21/424

John Smoot

to

11.8.1804

William Drura (father of the above William L. Drura)

L15...part of Rehoboth....2 acres

A part of a tract sold out at a stone down on the side of the saw mill tail and thence....to the path that leads to the saw mill then....to the saw mill race and then to run up the said race and binding therewith to the place of beginning...

1794 [1795]

Dennis Griffith's Map of Maryland

Ferry Crossing

Tavern sited on east bank

Dorchester County  
Land Record  
Old 24/9

Commission to Daniel Sullivane, James Sullivane, John Wheeler, and James Muir to perpetuate the bounds of Henry Hooper's land called Upper Black Walnut Landing" adjacent to the Nanticoke Indian land,

3.14.1769-4.9.1770

Samuel Cratcher, Moses Lord, Oliver Hackett, all residents of area, late of Dorchester County, deposition of Walter Kimmey, aged 51 years, states that about 28 years past he, this deponent, lived with Mary Cratcher, late of Dorchester County, deceased, at Cratcher's Ferry and mentioned Capt. John (the Indian settlement) Andertons, or or Anderton's Branch

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-738

Name Brookview-Eldorado Survey District  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 10

---

Deposition of Danair Sullivane, aged about 45 years, mentions Mary Cratcher, dec'd, mother of this deponent, and Samuel Cratcher, dec'd, father of this deponent, identifies "the third branch above Cratcher's Ferry and the nearest to the Plantation whereon Jeremiah Stainton (Stanton) now dwells," as Francis Anderton's branch, and states that she heard that the said Mary Cratcher say that Samuel Cratcher, deponent's father, did lease the land between the said branch and the branch below Cratcher's Ferry from the Indians...

Old 21/152

Mentions road to Mary Cratcher's Ferry....

10.15.1766

Old 15/295

Memorandum the following Lease was recorded the twenty-ninth day of September 1755

9.29.1755

This Indenture made the 4<sup>th</sup> day of April 1717 by and between Panquash and Annotokim of the one part and Samuel Croucher on the other part Witnesseth that the said Panquash and Annotokim for and in consideration of the yearly rents hereafter mentioned on the part of the said Samuel Croucher his Heirs and Assigns hath ....unto the said Crotcher his Heirs and Assigns all that Farm or Plantation called and known by the name of the upper Black Walnut Landing lying and being in Dorchester County on the northwest fork of Nanticoak River from Francis Anderton's Branch and running with the Indian path to the head of Fraks (?) Branch.....and paying yearly and every year Six Bushels of

Indian Corn

11.1684

Act of Assembly, Boundary adjustment on the border between Somerset County and Dorchester County, previously thought to be the Northwest Fork of the Nanticoke [1666] relocated to the main course of the Nanticoke in 1684.

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of**  
**Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. D-738

Name Brookview-Eldorado Survey District  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 11

---

1671

Establishment of ferry crossing at the same time ferry crossing  
established at the Dover crossing of the Choptank River

(p. 98, Elias Jones, New Revised History of Dorchester County,  
Maryland, 1966)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-738

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.

Graham, John L. *The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*. Wicomico Bicentennial Committee, 1976, p. 66.

Jones, Elias. *New Revised History of Dorchester County, Maryland*. Centreville, MD: Tidewater Publishers, 1966 Reprint of 1902 edition.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 30 acres

Acreage of historical setting 30 acres

Quadrangle name Rhodesdale, MD Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this survey district extend to the limits of each village.

## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	1/8/2008
street & number	Cedar Hill, P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



sons' Cross Roads, Md.  
**SMITH & WHEATLEY**, Dealers in  
 Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes. 1  
 Clothing, Notions, &c. Galestown P.

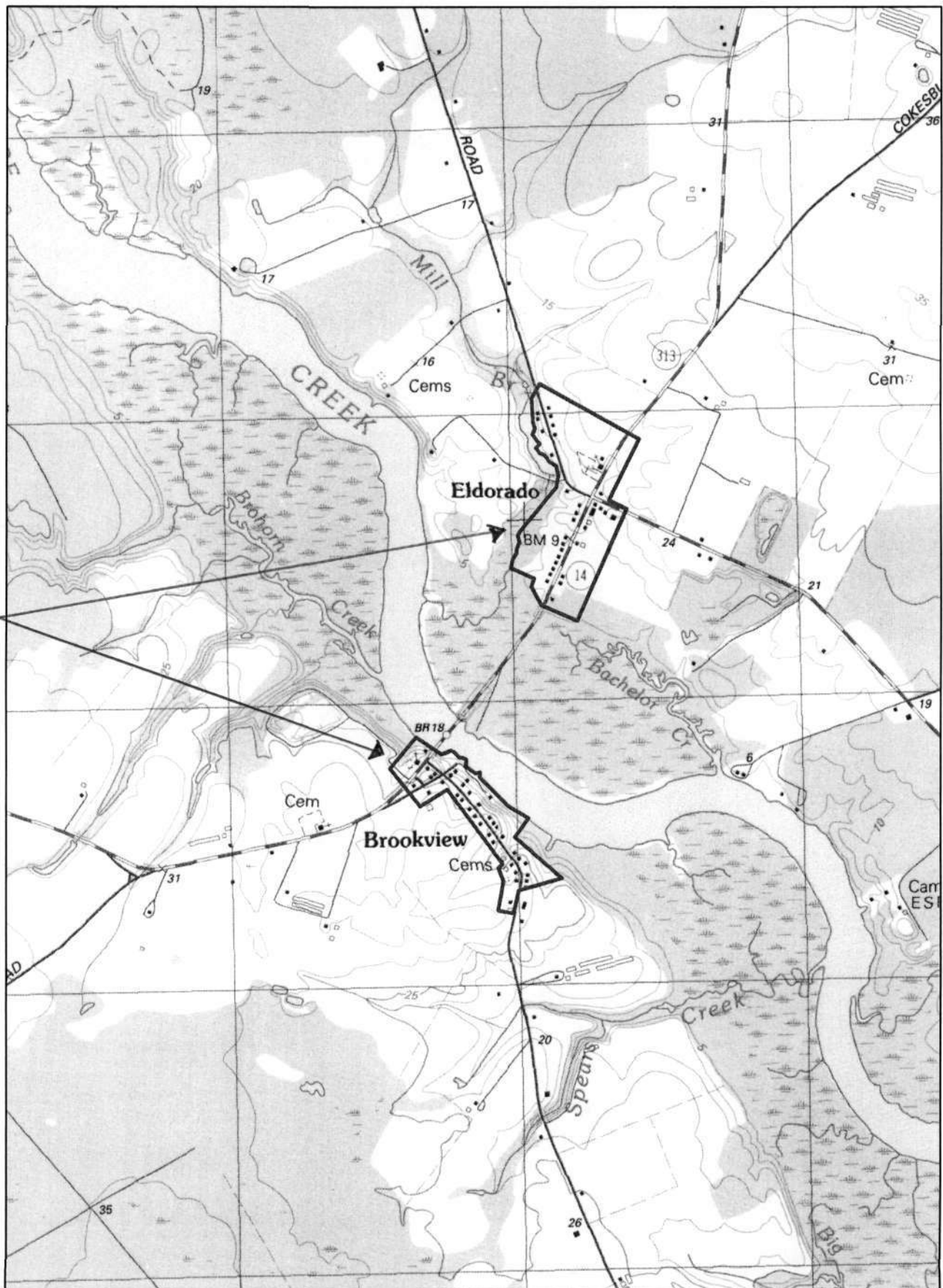


D-738, Brookview-Eldorado Survey  
District  
Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson/1877



D-738, Brookview-Eldorado Survey  
District  
Dennis Griffith, Map of MD-1795

D-738  
Brookview-Eldorado Survey District  
Rhodesdale Quadrangle





D-738

Brookview - Elleanor Survey District  
(Elleanor M. P. Church, D-328)

Elleanor, Dorchester Co., MD.

SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

3/08, Pam Tourant, Pictographix

Wes./MD. Historical Trust







D-738

BROOKVIEW - ELIZABETH Survey District  
ELIZABETH, DOUGHERTY CR., MD.

SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

3/18, PAUL TOWART, PHOTOGRAPHER  
WTH. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST